

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 6-7, 11, 14, 17, 27, 30,35-37,41-42,44,47, and 50-55 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The rejection of claims 1,6-7, and 11 under o35 U.S.C. 102(b) over George et al., US 4,847,263 and George et al., US 4,808,594 and Schloemer et al., US 6,861,525 in the previous Office action is withdrawn due to Applicant's argument and amendment on date 01/15/2008.

Applicant's argued that none of the references has precious metal catalyst. For example, the process in George et al., US 4,847,263 uses Rongalite, which is not a precious metal catalyst.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no late than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Niloofar Rahmani whose telephone number is 571-272-4329. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janet Andres, can be reached on 571-272-0867.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NILOOFAR RAHMANI

D.MARGARET SEAMAN

03/06/2008

PRIMARY EXAMINER

/D. Margaret Seaman/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1625